

MINUTES OF CABINET MEMBER SIGNING MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 19 JUNE 2023, 4:15PM - 4:25PM.

PRESENT: Councillor Peray Ahmet, Leader of the Council

In attendance: Sarah Jones, Event and Partnerships Manager, Daniel Wales, Senior Events Officer, Ayshe Simsek, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager and Nazyer Choudhury, Principal Committee Co-Ordinator.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. PARK HIRE APPLICATIONS BY FESTIVAL REPUBLIC LTD TO HIRE FINSBURY PARK FOR MULTI-EVENT WEEKENDS INCLUDING THE WIRELESS FESTIVAL, AND ONE OTHER WEEKEND OF MUSIC CONCERTS, IN 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026 AND 2027 (NON-KEY)

This report sought a determination of a number of applications made by Festival Republic Ltd (the Applicant) to hire Finsbury Park for a period in June/July every year between 2023 and 2027, in order to stage two consecutive three-day multi-event weekends.

The applications were required to be determined pursuant to the Council's Outdoor Events Policy (the Policy), which was approved by Cabinet on 17 December 2013 and implemented on 7 January 2014.

The Leader of the Council noted that Councillor George Dunstall had contacted Democratic Services prior to the signing to ask to place on record his objection to the duration of the contract hire of Finsbury Park for five years.

Councillor Alexandra Worrell had made representations during the consultation period.

The Leader of the Council had asked for the Contract hire agreement to include an annual performance review and this would be included.

The Leader of the Council had asked for the annual performance review to include engagement with: ward councillors of Stroud Green and Haringay wards, local stakeholders, including the Friends of Finsbury Park. Legal advisors were content with these caveats and the monitoring arrangements for the contract which was in keeping with the Council's general expectations.

The annual engagement process would be developed and as part of the performance review there would be a re-write of the terms of reference for the Finsbury Park Events Stakeholder Group. There would be a schedule setting out when the meetings would take place, both with the Stakeholder Group but also with ward members.

Further to considering the exempt information,

The Leader of the Council RESOLVED

1. To consider and take account of the comments received from recognised stakeholders of Finsbury Park in response to the event notifications being sent as part of the decision-making process (attached as Appendix 2 of the report).
2. Pursuant to Contract Standing Order 16.02, to authorise the Director of Environment and Resident Experience to (1) approve conditional, in-principle agreement to hire Finsbury Park to the Applicant for the events and dates detailed in this report as set out in paragraph 6.4 and (2) enter into contract to hire Finsbury Park to the Applicant (for the events detailed in this report as set out in paragraph 6.5) provided that the Director of Environment and Resident Experience is satisfied with the terms of any proposed agreements and permissions.

Reasons for decision

Under the terms of the Policy, applications of the type detailed in the report would be required to be determined with the prior agreement of the Cabinet Member.

If authority was given, then officers would give in-principle agreement to the Applicant for the event applications to progress. The events would then be subject to lengthy discussions with relevant authorities-including Licensing-before final approval was given.

The rejection of the applications would have implications for the Parks & Leisure Service budget and reduce the opportunity for reinvestment into Finsbury Park (the Park). It would also mean that the wider cultural and economic benefits to the borough were lost.

Alternative options considered

In adopting the Policy, the Council established its commitment to using the Park for a limited number of major events each year. Accordingly, the only other alternative option which could be considered would be to reject the applications. That option was rejected, on the grounds that the events did not fall within any of the grounds set out in paragraph 5.3 of the Policy for automatic refusal.

4. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Item 5 was subject to a motion to exclude the press and public be from the meeting as it contained exempt information as defined in Section 100a of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by Section 12A of the Local Government Act 1985); para 3 namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

5. EXEMPT - PARK HIRE APPLICATIONS BY FESTIVAL REPUBLIC LTD TO HIRE FINSBURY PARK FOR MULTI-EVENT WEEKENDS INCLUDING THE WIRELESS FESTIVAL, AND ONE OTHER WEEKEND OF MUSIC CONCERTS, IN 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026 AND 2027 (NON-KEY)

The Leader of the Council considered the exempt information.

CHAIR: Councillor Peray Ahmet

Signed by the Leader of the Council

Date20 June 2023.....

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